

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND

Recent actions by the Polish police could lead to union and popular charges of harassment and thus create more problems for the regime.

[REDACTED] the police yesterday searched the offices of the Warsaw Chapter of Solidarity and confiscated an allegedly classified legal document. It is not yet clear whether this action was authorized by the regime or was an independent action by the Ministry of Internal Affairs to demonstrate to the new unions that their activities are being carefully watched.

[REDACTED] on 11 November the police also arrested some participants in demonstrations in Warsaw and Lublin--commemorating the reestablishment of the Polish state after World War I--for making anti-regime and anti-Soviet statements. During similar demonstrations in previous years, such statements went unpunished.

Views From Moscow

USA Institute Deputy Director Bogdanov told [REDACTED] on Monday that the Polish situation was serious, but under control. Bogdanov emphasized that the Soviet Government had made no decision on further steps in Poland and said that it believes that the Poles can solve their own problems.

Bogdanov claimed that the US has reason to be pleased with the Soviets' restrained approach on Poland and suggested that Moscow was similarly pleased with US behavior. He said that Moscow's only concern was the large amounts of money being sent to the free trade unions, but he added that the Soviets understand that the US Government cannot control this.

These remarks were in keeping with the line that several Soviet officials have recently been putting out regarding Soviet hopes for "constructive" relations with

--continued

Approved for Release
Date AUG 1999

3

~~Top Secret~~

21 November 1980

98
112A

~~Top Secret~~

Poland, linked with the Soviet Union and all the Warsaw Pact countries, is capable of safeguarding for our nation the condition for sovereign propitious development."

Compromise between institutions, however, is not at the heart of Poland's current difficulties. Compromises are being reached at the highest levels, but lower level officials and constituent organizations are failing to operate in the same constructive spirit. A deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, for example, complained that small groups currently are frustrating long-term rationalization plans in the mining, construction, and sugar refining industries by stirring up local disputes.

He also recounted being threatened, after two months of intermittent negotiations, with a rail strike today and a takeover of management of part of the rail system. That threat was subsequently withdrawn, only to be replaced by a threat from Solidarity headquarters in Warsaw, which wants one of its volunteer workers released from custody after a police raid on its facilities last week. Prospects for an end to these strike threats and their underlying social tensions are not in sight.

~~Top Secret~~

24 November 1980